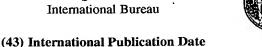
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(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a storage stable pharmaceutical formulation comprising preferably two active compounds in a non-swellable diffusion matrix, whereby the compounds are released from the matrix in a sustained, invariant and, if several compounds are present, independent manner and the matrix is determined with respect to its substantial release characteristics by ethylcellulose and at least one fatty alcohol. The invention also concerns methods for producing such pharmaceutical formulations.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61K9/16 A61k A61K9/22 A61K9/20 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 **A61K** Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, BIOSIS, EMBASE C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X EP 0 699 436 A (EURO CELTIQUE SA) 1-12. 6 March 1996 (1996-03-06) 16-24,27-40 Υ the whole document 13-15. 25,26 abstract page 4, line 21 -page 4, line 51 page 5, line 14 -page 5, line 30 page 6, line 14 -page 7, line 2 examples 1-3 claims 1,2,8,9,11 X EP 0 631 781 A (EURO CELTIQUE SA) 1 - 404 January 1995 (1995-01-04) abstract page 3, line 20 -page 3, line 24 page 4, line 31 -page 4, line 32 page 9, line 9 -page 9, line 13 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published $\mbox{\it fill}$ nor to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 24 September 2003 02/10/2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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